From: Association of Deputy District Attorneys
To: Kutches, Brandon (SHF)
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Prosecutors / Prosecutions

How an anti-illegal immigration YouTuber turned a $280 fine into a federal criminal trial

It began as a $280 citation for using a video camera in a courthouse.

But to Gary Gileno, at stake was much more than the couple hundred bucks he was told to pay. An attorney for the anti-illegal immigration activist and prolific YouTuber told a judge Friday that the four-hour trial over the fine was really about preventing government abuse of power, protecting the rights of journalists and ensuring that citizens can hold public officials accountable.
Los Angeles Times

10 alleged Surenos gang members charged in 7 Bay Area killings
Ten alleged members of the Surenos gang have been charged for their suspected roles in seven killings, accused by prosecutors of engaging in a criminal enterprise that targeted suspected rivals and sought to maintain control of drug sales in San Francisco's Mission District. According to a grand jury indictment, the men have been longtime members of two closely affiliated gangs, the 19th Street Surenos and the 16th Street Surenos.
Los Angeles Times

Criminal charges filed in 3-year-old financial scandal that rocked San Pedro museum ship
Criminal charges have been filed against a former S.S. Lane Victory treasurer - who was also the newlywed wife of the then-executive director - in a 2015 financial scandal that rocked the museum ship in San Pedro. Christal L. Dunn of Lakewood is charged with one count of grand theft for allegedly transferring $20,000 from the ship's funds to her personal account on Aug. 4, 2015. Dunn, who was arrested March 21 and released on bail, has pleaded not guilty.
Torrance Daily Breeze

Backpage website shut down, founder charged with 93 counts by FBI in sealed indictment

The co-founder of Backpage.com, a website synonymous with sex ads, was arrested by federal agents and charged with criminal offences, after law enforcement seized the website as part of an enforcement action by the FBI, according to a posting on the website on Friday. Federal agents raided the Sedona home of Backpage co-founder Michael Lacey on Friday.
Reuters

Law Enforcement

Sheriff's department struggling to manage $3.2 billion budget, deputy overtime
The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is running a projected $40 million budget deficit and using dollars allocated for services, supplies and equipment to pay out an estimated $142 million in unbudgeted overtime, according to a report presented Tuesday to the Board of Supervisors. Chief Executive Officer Sachi Hamai told the board that the

numbers reflect a historical imbalance in place for the last 20 years, long before Sheriff Jim McDonnell was elected in 2014.
City News Service

LA Sheriff ties $142 million in overtime to 1,000 deputy vacancies
The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is facing a projected $40 million deficit and vacancies of more than 1,000 deputies, forcing the sheriff to place on hold a plan to equip nearly 6,000 deputies with body cameras, according to agency officials. In testimony to the Board of Supervisors Tuesday, Sheriff Jim McDonnell blamed much of the deficit on his estimated $142 million in unbudgeted overtime, which is driven by the vacancies.
KPCC

Sheriff's department hires independent consultant to manage budget deficit
The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is operating at a projected $40 million budget deficit from its $3.2 billion budget for fiscal year 2017-2018, according to a report presented April 10 to the Board of Supervisors. The department is also paying an estimated $142 million in unbudgeted overtime and exceeding salaries and employee benefits by about $82 million, Sachi Hamai, Los Angeles County Chief Executive Officer, said to the board Tuesday.
The Signal

Police using 'drone killers' to disable flying devices in emergency situations
Drones have been used for a lot more than making videos and delivering pizzas. They have dropped drugs into prison yards, scouted out illegal border crossings and grounded lifesaving efforts by accidentally wandering into the flight paths of firefighting aircraft. The sky may be the limit for drones, but local law enforcement agencies are looking for a way to bring them back to earth.
Los Angeles Times

230 pounds of marijuana discovered on a charter jet at Van Nuys Airport
Los Angeles Airport Police officers seized more than 230 pounds of marijuana from a private jet at Van Nuys Airport. The pot was found late Sunday while luggage was being placed on the plane for a charter flight to Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, authorities said. "While the luggage was being loaded, one bag tore open and some marijuana fell out," said Los Angeles World Airport Police Officer Rob Pedregon.
NBC4

Public Safety

Should civilians have subpoena power over the sheriff's

department?
Community activists in Los Angeles plan to launch a campaign Saturday that would give subpoena power to the Sheriff's Civilian Oversight Commission. The nine-member panel appointed by the Board of Supervisors and created in the wake of the jail abuse scandal is currently advisory only. "The commission needs legal powers so that the sheriff's department actually takes it seriously," Patrisse Cullors, a co-founder of Black Lives Matter, told KPCC.
KPCC

Who's watching the police? The state of civilian oversight in Southern California
When Sacramento police officers shot and killed Stephon Clark last month, the city's Community Police Review Commission watched and listened to the fallout. The 11-member panel is advisory only, so it could do little more. When Los Angeles sheriff's deputies failed to find a gun allegedly carried by an African-American teenager they killed in South L.A. in February, the Sheriff's Civilian Oversight Commission conducted an emergency town hall.
KPCC

LA Sheriff's watchdog is reviewing deputy shooting investigations after KPCC reports
"Stop. Stop. Put your hands up," a Los Angeles County Sheriff's deputy shouted at a man leaving a burglarized home in an unincorporated neighborhood of South Los Angeles. The man, Tennell Billups, had no desire to go to jail that morning in April 2011. So he ran. The deputy "just started shooting," Billups later recalled.
KPCC

The wide gap between police who fear for their lives and members of the public who fear police
In the turbulent wake of Stephon Clark's killing in Sacramento on March 18, only a small handful of readers have sent us relatively placid commentaries, compared with the dozens that have written with more emotion. That's to be expected in a case involving an unarmed 22-year-old black man who was suspected of breaking multiple car windows being shot eight times by police in his grandparents' backyard.
Los Angeles Times

We can't roll back progress on criminal justice reform
California in recent years has made great strides in reducing its unsustainable incarceration rate by embracing smart justice strategies for achieving public safety. These strategies include addressing the causative factors of crime, shifting to risk based decision making throughout the criminal justice system, developing effective rehabilitation programming and significantly expanding community support for victims of crime.

Times-Standard

Rally for crime victims to feature Sacramento DA Anne Marie Schubert
A rally at the Capitol this morning recognizing victims of violence will feature Sacramento District Attorney Anne Marie Schubert, under intense pressure from activists to file criminal charges against the two officers - Terrence Mercadel and Jared Robinet - who shot and killed 22-year-old Stephon Clark last month. The Sacramento Police Department has not confirmed the names of the officers, released last month by Oakland civil rights attorney John Burris.
Sacramento Bee

Courts / Rulings

California tool used to squeeze 'top 500' tax scofflaws upheld by court
California can legally suspend the driver's licenses of the unhappy members of a state "top 500" list, a federal appeals court said Wednesday in a ruling that applies to a roster of taxpayers who owe the state at least $100,000 and haven't paid it. Since 2012, state law has required the license suspensions of the top 500 delinquent taxpayers, a list published twice a year.
SF Gate

The battle for the 9th Circuit Court falls silent
The death of Judge Stephen Reinhardt last week at age 87 marks the end of an era for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit, which also saw the abrupt retirement of Judge Alex Kozinski in December. For more than three decades, the largest appeals court in the nation had been the site of an epic legal struggle between the progressive liberal lion and the conservative-libertarian stalwart.
Bloomberg

Signs of struggles on big cases as Supreme Court pace slackens
Members of the U.S. Supreme Court appeared to be struggling over how to resolve a key case recently when Justice Stephen Breyer suggested that the best course might be to put off a decision altogether. Breyer's remark, coming during a March 28 oral argument in a closely watched case involving the redrawing of electoral districts aimed at entrenching one party in power, illustrated the difficulty the nine justices seem to be having in producing rulings at their usual pace.
Reuters

California owes $40 million in back wages to its judges. It's refusing to pay them.
California state attorneys are digging in to fight court rulings directing the state to pay about $40 million in back wages and benefits to some 3,000 current and former judges who contend they were shortchanged

during the recession. Winning the case could save taxpayers tens of millions of dollars. But continuing to fight it carries an expensive risk, too.
Sacramento Bee

Bid to stop LegalZoom trademark registration services is set back (Corrected)
A California federal judge partially dismissed a complaint that LegalZoom.com engages in the unauthorized practice of law, false advertising, and unfair competition. LegalForce RAPC Worldwide P.C., of Mountain View, Calif., claimed in its complaint that it is "the largest law firm filer of trademarks" in the U.S. LegalForce sought a court order enjoining LegalZoom from preparing and filing trademark applications at the Patent and Trademark Office.
Bloomberg

Chief Justice calls for court rule precluding secret settlements of claims against judges
Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye said yesterday she is calling upon the Judicial Council to revamp a rule of court to bar secret settlement agreements resolving sexual harassment or sexual discrimination complaints against judges. The move comes in the aftermath of the March 23 disclosure by the Judicial Council that nearly $600,000 in taxpayer funds has been expended since 2011 to investigate and settle three complaints of sexual harassment against judges and two against court employees.
Metropolitan News-Enterprise

LA County

LA County 2018-2019 budget invests in residents, communities
Los Angeles County today unveiled a $30.8-billion balanced budget for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 that confronts the region's most difficult social challenges and builds a foundation for future progress through an array of proven programs and services. The proposed spending plan for the nation's most populous county supports a range of vital commitments - from its vast health care system to its essential public safety operations to its broad beaches and world-class cultural institutions.
SCV News

LA County launches new plan to give black babies a better chance at life
In Los Angeles County, black babies are more than three times more likely than white babies to die in the first year of life. It's a shocking statistic, but racial disparities in infant mortality rates have persisted for decades. Los Angeles County has a new plan to close the gap. On Friday, the county announced an action plan to reduce that disparity by 30 percent in the next five years by averting the chronic stress that contributes to poor birth outcomes.

KPCC

Inglewood calls lawsuit over proposed Clippers arena a `sham'
Inglewood Mayor James Butts and an attorney for the city Tuesday lashed out at the owners of the Forum over a lawsuit they filed challenging the city's effort to build an arena to house the Los Angeles Clippers, calling the legal action a "sham." "We plan to defend the lawsuit vigorously," Inglewood attorney Skip Miller said. "And I look forward to our day in court. Normally a defendant doesn't say that, but I'm saying it here. Bring it on."
LA West Media

LA's new public defender must have "significant criminal defense experience" more than 40 high profile attorneys tell LA County supes
Los Angeles County's public defender's office has been without a permanent leader since the previous Public Defender, Ron Brown, stepped down at the end of 2016. Unlike district attorneys who are elected, public defenders are-with a few exceptions-appointed.
witnessLA

Two prosecutors with disparate backgrounds in office compete
Los Angeles County Deputy District Attorneys Mary Ann Escalante and Wendy Segall are former friends, now locked in battle for a Superior Court open seat. Their rift was discussed here yesterday. In a nutshell, there is what one person close to the scene denominates a "merry band of traveling judges and DDAs" (And, there are said to be a few criminal defense lawyers included.)
Metropolitan News-Enterprise

Former jailer settles suit against Los Angeles County
A former Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department civilian employee reached a settlement in his lawsuit alleging he was retaliated against for exposing favorable treatment given to an inmate accused of stealing former Dodger catcher Jim Campanis' 1988 World Series ring. Papers filed by lawyers for ex-jailer Anthony Serena in Los Angeles Superior Court state the case he brought against Los Angeles County was resolved, but no terms were divulged.
My News LA

Law Enforcement Legislation

CA reps introduce Orwellian 'Police Accountability and Community Protection Act'
In my April 6 column here on PJ Media, I mentioned the legislative effort in California to address police shootings and change the legal standard by which they are judged. Assembly Bill 931, bearing the Orwellian title of Police Accountability and Community Protection Act, would make it unlawful for a police officer to use deadly force unless it was "necessary." It sounds reasonable, of course.

PJ Media

Why California police say changing the lethal force standard is dangerous (Video)
Citrus Heights Police Chief Ronald Lawrence explains his opposition to Assembly Bill 931, which would change the standard for police use of deadly force from "reasonable" to "necessary."
Sacramento Bee

California police chiefs oppose 'necessary' standard for deadly force
On Monday, a dozen police chiefs and police association executives from California announced their opposition to AB 931. Authored by Assembly members Shirley Weber, D-San Diego, and Kevin McCarty, D-Sacramento, the bill seeks to raise the bar on legal use-of-force by police from the existing "reasonable" standard to "necessary."
ABC 10

California's proposed police 'Use of Force' law would expand legal gray area
Over at National Review Online this week, I've been involved in a debate with NRO writer David French over the Sacramento police shooting of Stephon Clark. Mr. French acknowledges that the officers' actions may not have been criminal (as I also argued in an earlier column here on PJ Media), but says their tactics were overly aggressive and led to Clark's unnecessary death. I disagree.
PJ Media

Stephon Clark killing prompts bid to open police disciplinary records
A line of law enforcement officers stood stoically as protesters confronted them, chanting a refrain that has become a fixture of Sacramento protests over the police killing of an unarmed African American man. "We don't need you, we don't want you," the protesters said. And one woman added a message that's been at the heart of the protests: "We don't trust you."
San Francisco Chronicle

Prop 57 & 47

Groups debate if California has gone too far on crime reform
Crime survivors and law enforcement leaders on Monday criticized a legal system they said has gone too far in reversing get-tough-on-crime policies of past decades as they stood before hundreds of photographs of crime victims as part of their annual Capitol rally. They urged voters to support a ballot initiative that would roll back portions of measures passed in 2014 and 2016 that critics say impede investigations and free violent offenders too soon.
AP

A convicted fraudster was released and then un-released from Soledad prison
Poor David Lack. I don't know whether to feel sorry for the guy or to kick him while he's down. I'm inclined to do both. Not so Brian Cota, the prosecuting attorney who put Lack away in 2014 on a nine-year sentence for bank fraud and embezzlement. If Cota has his way, he'll send Lack off to yet another stint in the hoosegow. That is, if Lack doesn't die first from cancer.
Santa Barbara Independent

City council to make statement on Keep California Safe Act
Santa Clarita City Council plans to consider formally supporting the Reducing Crime and Keeping California Safe Act of 2018, which will be voted on by California residents in November, at its April 10 meeting. The initiative filed with state officials would "reform the parole system so violent felons are not released early from prison, strengthen oversight of post release community supervision and tighten penalties for violations of terms of post release community supervision."
The Signal

Crime victims group seeks rollback of California sentencing reforms
Crime victims rallied at the state Capitol Monday to seek a rollback to recent changes in the state legal system on crime sentencing which scaled back criminal penalties. The rally was interrupted by protesters angry over the fatal police shooting of an unarmed man in Sacramento last month.
CBS SF

Signature gathering underway for initiative aiming to release non-violent 'third strikers' from California prisons
A California social justice advocacy group is hoping to bring relief to a section of the state's prison population the group says was left behind by recent criminal justice reform efforts. "We The People Org," founded by long-time California criminal defense attorney Tom Loversky, is gathering signatures in an effort to get the "Fair Sentencing and Public Safety Act of 2018" onto the November ballot.
NBC Bay Area

Visalia sees crime increase under Prop. 47
The California Police Chiefs Association is proposing a statewide initiative that would help address some of the problems that have resulted from the passage of recent ballot measures, particularly Propositions 47 and 57. Locally, Visalia Police Chief Jason Salazar is in support of the proposed Reducing Crime and Keeping California Safe Act of 2018.
Visalia Times Delta

AB 109

$60 million and little to show for it
As you read this, there are about 150 nonviolent men and women suffering from mental illness in our county jail, and they shouldn't be there. It would be more compassionate, and cheaper, to give them what is called permanent, supportive housing (housing that includes social services due to lack of ability for independent living). Why isn't the county making the right decision on this?
Santa Barbara Independent

Convictions & Sentences

Orange County man gets longer prison term for sexually assaulting toddler
A Southern California man convicted of sexually assaulting a 3-year-old girl got a new sentence Friday of 25 years to life in prison after an appeals court found the trial judge handed down a 10-year sentence that was too lenient. Kevin Rojano-Nieto, 23, also was ordered to register as a sex offender, the Orange County District Attorney's Office said.
AP

Ex-JetBlue flight attendant freed in LAX drug caper: Time served enough
A former JetBlue Airways flight attendant who tried to smuggle nearly 60 pounds of cocaine onto a plane at Los Angeles International Airport in her carry-on baggage was sentenced Monday to time served - about two years - by a federal judge who cited her crucial testimony in the prosecution of her supplier.
My News LA

DA Elections

Contrasting styles, messages give voters clear choice in DA race
You would be hard pressed to find more divergent opponents on the San Diego County June ballot than in the race for district attorney. One is the county's prosecutor: the insider, establishment candidate with nearly three decades of experience who has risen through the ranks to the top of her profession, making changes to the DA's office along the way.
San Diego Union-Tribune

When being "tough on crime" is a political liability
District attorney races are rarely competitive. Roughly 85 percent of incumbents run unopposed in campaigns that draw little fanfare. The result, some criminal justice experts say, is that tough-on-crime DAs have reigned for decades, driving a nearly 30-year surge in jail and prison populations with their aggressive charging and sentencing policies.
Mother Jones

Death Penalty

News media sue over California's new execution rules

The Los Angeles Times and other news media organizations sued over California's new execution rules Wednesday, saying they would bar journalists from fully reporting on the lethal injection procedure. The lawsuit is the latest challenge as the state seeks to resume executions for the first time since 2006.
AP

Stanislaus law-enforcement leaders speak out on proposed lethal-force legislation

Law enforcement leaders in and around Stanislaus County are speaking out against newly introduced legislation that would change the way police are allowed to use deadly force in California. Assembly Bill 931 would tighten the state standard for police use of deadly force from "reasonable" to "necessary," meaning when there are no alternatives for the officer to consider.
Modesto Bee

Consumer News

Can Amazon and its marketplace rivals fix their counterfeits problem?

Since Amazon first created the Marketplace to take on eBay, the e-tailer has brought into its fold and onto its website millions of third-party sellers. By 2016, third-party goods accounted for half of all merchandise sold through the site. Credit Suisse has put Marketplace's sales at $135 billion, and that could expand $259 billion by 2020, according to figures cited in Entrepreneur magazine.
Retail Dive

State Bar

Is your lawyer a crook? The California State Bar may soon let you know

What do you call up to 10 percent of lawyers in California? Convicted criminals. And that's no rotten-lawyer joke. That's the eye-popping new estimate by the agency that licenses them. Of California's 190,000 active attorneys, as many as 19,000 may have unreported criminal activity, from DUIs to more serious offenses, according to the State Bar of California.
Santa Cruz Sentinel

Guns

Gun laws intended to protect domestic violence victims also a boon for cops

A woman reported her threatening husband to police three times in the

span of two months. Warrants were ordered for him and she was granted two iterations of a protective order during that time. Police had checked the house for him, and they knew he had a gun. The woman even enlisted the help of an off-duty police officer who lived down the street to help her as she got the locks changed on their house.
ABC News

Immigration

The grieving father leading the fight to repeal California's sanctuary state law

At this point, California is fighting a war on two fronts in an effort to save their besieged sanctuary state law known as SB54. The federal government is suing the state to repeal three recent laws enacted covering various aspects of immigration enforcement. Simultaneously, several cities and at least one county are suing them from the inside, declaring that they are exempt from the laws.
Hot Air

U.S. attorney general renews calls to prosecute first-time border crossers

U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions ramped up calls on Friday to criminally prosecute immigrants who cross illegally into the United States, adding to a barrage of statements on immigration by the administration of President Donald Trump this week. Pointing to an upswing in border crossings to levels seen during former President Barack Obama's tenure, Sessions said he was ordering U.S. Attorneys offices near the Southwest border to prioritize bringing cases against first-time offenders.
Reuters

Corrections

Echo Yard, where normal prison rules no longer apply

Echo Yard, Donovan prison's newest unit, is built around a dirt and concrete lot the size of two football fields. The prairie-flat expanse is bordered by sheer concrete walls, rising 70 feet, with ground-floor doors leading into cell blocks. To civilian visitors, Echo looks harsh. To Anerae "X-Raided" Brown, Echo looks wonderful.
San Diego Union-Tribune

For Trump son-in-law Jared Kushner, prison reform is personal

President Donald Trump wants to help federal inmates "who have served their time get a second chance." That's what he said in his 2018 State of the Union address. Thank Trump's senior aide and son-in-law, Jared Kushner, not his attorney general. For Kushner, prison reform is personal. In 2005, his real-estate mogul father was sentenced to two years in prison after pleading guilty to tax evasion, witness tampering, and making illegal campaign donations.

The American Spectator

Convicted of killing parents, Menendez brothers reunited in Socal prison
The siblings infamously known as the Menendez Brothers, convicted of killing their parents in their Beverly Hills mansion nearly three decades ago, have been reunited in a Southern California prison. Erik Menendez, 47, has moved into the same housing unit as his 50-year-old brother, Lyle Menendez, Corrections department spokeswoman Terry Thornton said Thursday.
CBS News

California prisons investigate 2 inmate deaths as homicides
Officials in California prisons 200 miles apart are separately investigating the deaths of two inmates as homicides. Mule Creek State Prison officials say 77-year-old inmate Robert Hunter was found unresponsive in his cell Monday with blunt force injuries to his face. His cellmate, 46-year-old Matthew Wanser, is considered the suspect.
AP

Council, residents upset over plans to bring parolees to training camp
The Camarillo City Council took a strong stance against Gov. Jerry Brown's plan to create an 18-month fire-training program for parolees just northwest of city limits. The program, which is set to begin with 20 parolees in October, would eventually house 80 trainees at the Ventura Conservation Camp at 2800 Wright Road-property in unincorporated Ventura County-as they learn about wildfire and urban firefighting techniques to compete for jobs with Cal Fire and possibly the U.S. Forest Service.
Camarillo Acorn

State / Politics

Five more sexual misconduct cases released by California Legislature
The California Legislature on Thursday released a limited set of sexual misconduct records for five investigations before 2006 in which a lawmaker or high-level employee was found to have harassed a legislative staff member. The heavily redacted documents contained complaints, investigative results and monetary settlements.
Sacramento Bee

Investigation finds sexual harassment allegations against top California legislative staffer 'substantiated'
A top legislative staff member has resigned during an investigation that substantiated allegations he made sexually inappropriate comments to two female state employees in violation of state policies, according to internal documents and a letter to Wilson from Debra Gravert, the chief

administrative officer for the Assembly.
Los Angeles Times

Scott Wilk legislation involving parole for sex offenders unanimously approved
SB 1199 would require, when at all possible, that there be a family or community connection before paroling a sex offender into a community (unless that placement would violate any other law or pose a risk to the victims). "People living in rural and affordable areas of California, like the Victor and Antelope valleys should not bear the brunt of rehousing and rehabilitating California's sex offenders," said Wilk.
KHTS

Homeless

Why LA County could lose $3 billion worth of affordable housing
L.A. County is at risk of losing roughly $3 billion worth of affordable housing in the next five years, according to a draft report presented to county officials Thursday. On top of that, efforts to build new units for homeless and low-income people in the county are also hitting snags. Why? A combination of gentrification, federal tax reform, and the circuitous way affordable housing is funded in this country are mostly to blame.
KPCC

L.A. County wants to help build guest houses in backyards - for homeless people
"Not in my backyard" protests helped block homeless housing in Temple City, delayed it in Boyle Heights and, last month, killed Orange County's plan to relocate homeless people to shelters. Now, Los Angeles officials want to turn NIMBYism on its head - by paying property owners to put houses for homeless people in their backyards.
Los Angeles Times

Marijuana

Chart: Breakdown of California marijuana companies that got cease-and-desist letters
Nearly 1,000 individual cannabis businesses have been sent cease-and-desist letters or emails by California regulators during an ongoing enforcement process, a first step in a long effort to ensure the state's industry is fully regulated and operating like those in more mature markets.
Marijuana Business Daily

Marijuana laws for every city and county? Our database shows California slow to accept Prop. 64
Fewer than one in three California cities (144 out of 482) allow any kind of cannabis business to operate in their borders. And just 18 of the

state's 58 counties permit cannabis businesses in their unincorporated areas. Also, fewer than one in five California cities welcome medical marijuana dispensaries, while fewer than one in seven allow recreational cannabis stores, where anyone 21 and older has been able to shop for legal weed since Jan. 1.
Orange County Register

California not meeting revenue projections for commercial cannabis, analyst says
In the first two months of cannabis legalization, consumers bought an estimated $339 million worth of marijuana products from retailers in California, 13 percent less than state projections, according to a leading analytics firm. The state has estimated that retail cannabis sales for the remaining six months of this fiscal year would be $1.15 billion, or $383 million every two months.
Sacramento Bee

National/California Issues

Author claims initiative to split California to qualify for ballot
An initiative to split California into three states has received enough signatures to qualify for the November ballot, its author said Wednesday. Venture capitalist Tim Draper said backers of what he has dubbed "CAL 3" would submit petitions with more than 600,000 signatures to election officials next week. The initiative needs signatures from 365,880 registered voters - five percent of the total votes cast for governor in the 2014 election - to qualify for the ballot.
City News Service

Democrats mobilize to offset Supreme Court's expected ruling against unions
Union-friendly lawmakers in several states have been working to make it harder for public-sector employees to opt out of paying union dues, even if the Supreme Court allows them to. Washington state adopted such a law last month, and similar efforts are under way in New York and New Jersey.
Washington Examiner

California lawmakers advance measures to curb opioid crisis
California lawmakers advanced 10 opioid-related bills Tuesday in an effort to address the drug abuse crisis in the state, including a proposal that would let California share prescription records with other states. Half of the bills passed by a legislative committee would increase monitoring or make it easier to track opioid prescriptions to help police and doctors spot problematic prescriptions.
AP

Trump signs bill designed to curb online sex trafficking
President Donald Trump signed legislation on Wednesday that allows

state and local law enforcement officials to prosecute websites that knowingly facilitate prostitution, sexual exploitation of children and illegal sex acts. Though the Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act came to Trump's desk with bipartisan support from Congress, the president said the decision to sign the bill was "a tough one," due to opposition from groups promoting such disparate causes as free speech, technology and sex workers' rights.
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Media

Guild at LA Times learns harsh reality of the pay gap
When I was a reporter then an editor at the LA Times, among the most upsetting periods in the newsroom were the occasional leaks of salary data. It always showed wide gaps in pay even among veterans and lower salaries across the board for women and people of color. The newsroom guild at the Los Angeles Times last night began sharing with the staff its new study of the salaries that the LAT has been paying, and there is fresh anguish throughout the ranks.
LAObserved

For more ADDA news and information, visit www.laadda.com.

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